

6-Month Final Summary Report for Child Death, Serious Injury or Egregious Incident

Reports submitted to the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) that do not include all of the required information will be returned to the agency for proper completion. Do not identify individuals by name when completing this report. Individuals may be referenced by relationship or position; e.g., mother, father, child, sibling, physician, detective, etc.

Case Tracking Number: 130328DSP-Port-307 **Agency:** Portage County Health and Human Services Department

Child Information (at time of incident)

Age: 6 years Gender: Female Male

Race or Ethnicity: Caucasian

Special Needs: Developmental delays, multiple medical conditions, and legally blind.

Date of Incident: March 28, 2013

Description of the incident, including the suspected cause of death, injury or egregious abuse or neglect:

On March 28, 2013, the agency received a report regarding a six-year-old child seen in the emergency room for burns caused by bath water. The child suffered first- and second-degree burns on her body, primarily to pressure points to her back. A defined line surrounding the injury showed the child was submerged in water three- to four-inches deep. A relative was bathing the child on the evening of the reported incident. The relative is paid to care for the child through an independent living agency to support the child's multiple, special needs. Because the child is unable to sit up without support, the child was lying flat on her back in the bathtub. While the water was running, the relative left the child alone for less than a minute to throw a diaper in the garbage. The child is non-verbal and was not interviewed. At the time of the report, the child was hospitalized in pediatric intensive care after transport to a larger hospital. Law enforcement initiated an investigation due to concern the caregiver's explanations did not match the injuries.

Law enforcement examined the water heater at the family's residence, and found it set at the hottest possible temperature. The relative caregiver was interviewed further and demonstrated his actions during the incident. He reported wearing gloves while changing the child's diaper and testing her bathwater. When he returned from throwing the child's diaper away, the relative found the bathwater very warm. The child began to scream so the relative pulled the drain plug. He shut off the hot water, turned on the cold water which he moved towards the child in the bathtub. The relative said the child was fussy but is often that way during baths. The relative stated he did not realize the child was getting burned and appeared very distraught about the incident. It was not until he took the child out of the tub that he noticed blisters to her hand and bottom. The relative said he and the mother then immediately took the child to the hospital. Law enforcement determined no criminal charges will be filed in this case.

Findings by agency, including maltreatment determination and material circumstances leading to incident:

The agency collaborated with law enforcement and medical personnel to complete the assessment. The allegation of neglect to the child by the relative caregiver was unsubstantiated. The agency and law enforcement concluded the child's injuries were caused accidentally, not from maltreatment. Upon realizing the child was injured, the relative caregiver immediately sought medical treatment. During the course of the assessment, the agency found unsanitary conditions in the home unsafe for children. As a result, the agency substantiated neglect to the child, her younger sibling and her older stepsister by the mother and stepfather. The child remained hospitalized while the half-sister and step-sister stayed with a relative until the family moved into another relative's home. The agency determined the children safe in the mother and step-father's care in their new residence.

Yes No Criminal investigation pending or completed?
 Yes No Criminal charges filed? If yes, against whom?

Child's residence at the time of incident: In-home Out-of-home care placement

Complete the appropriate following section (A. or B. based on the child's residence at the time of the incident).

A. Children residing at home at the time of the incident:

Description of the child's family (includes household members, noncustodial parent and other children that have visitation with the child and / or in the child's family home):

The child resided with her mother, her step-father and her 10-month-old half-sister. The child's eight-year-old step-sister visits the family's home regularly but primarily resides with her own mother.

Yes No **Statement of Services:** Were services under ch. 48 or ch. 938 being provided to the child, any member of the child's family or alleged maltreater at the time of the incident, including any referrals received by the agency or reports being investigated at time of incident?

If "Yes", briefly describe the type of services, date(s) of last contact between agency and recipient(s) of those services, and the person(s) receiving those services:

N/A

Summary of all involvement in services as adults under ch. 48 or ch. 938 by child's parents or alleged maltreater in the previous five years: (Does not include the current incident.)

N/A

Summary of actions taken by the agency under ch. 48, including any investigation of a report or referrals to services involving the child, any member of the child's family living in this household and the child's parents and alleged maltreater. (Does not include the current incident.)

(Note: Screened out reports listed in this section may include only the date of the report, screening decision, and if a referral to services occurred at Access. Reports that do not constitute a reasonable suspicion of maltreatment or a reason to believe that the child is threatened with harm are not required to be screened in for an initial assessment, and no further action is required by the agency.)

11/17/2006 –

A report alleging unborn child abuse was screened in by the agency for Initial Assessment. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the agency closed the case.

02/08/2007 –

A report was received by the agency and screened out.

08/12/2008 –

A report was received by the agency and screened out.

06/01/2009 –

A report alleging neglect and physical abuse was screened in by another agency for Initial Assessment. The allegations were unsubstantiated and the other agency closed the case.

08/04/2009 –

A report alleging neglect was received and screened in by the agency for Initial Assessment. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the agency closed the case.

08/14/2009 –

A report alleging sexual abuse was received and screened in by another agency for Initial Assessment. The allegation was unsubstantiated and the agency closed the case.

11/18/2009 –

A report alleging neglect was screened in by the agency for Initial Assessment and unsubstantiated. The family was provided with resource assistance and the agency closed the case.

01/31/2011 –

A report was received by the agency and screened out.

03/02/2011 –

A report was received and screened in by another agency as an Alternative Response Case. The case finding was Services Not Needed. The family was provided with resource assistance and the agency closed the case.

06/17/2011 –

A report was received and screened out by another agency.

Summary of any investigation involving the child, any member of the child's family and alleged maltreater conducted under ch. 48 or ch. 938 and any services provided to the child and child's family since the date of the incident:

The agency screened in and assessed the reported allegations. The allegation of neglect related to the child's burn injuries was unsubstantiated. However, the agency substantiated neglect to the child, her half-sister, and her step-sister by the mother and step-father due to unsafe/unsanitary living conditions found in the home. The child remained hospitalized at the close of the Initial Assessment. The family agreed to alternative housing arrangements for the children so they did not return to the unsanitary living conditions. The family then moved in with another relative. The agency confirmed the child received follow up medical services for her injuries during the course of the agency's assessment. The family was already receiving services in the community to address the child's special needs. The child and siblings were determined safe with no concerns for conditions in their new residence so the agency closed the case.

B. Children residing in out-of-home (OHC) placement at time of incident:

Description of the OHC placement and basis for decision to place child there:

N/A

Description of all other persons residing in the OHC placement home:

N/A

Licensing history: Including type of license, duration of license, summary of any violations by licensee or an employee of licensee that constitutes a substantial failure to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

N/A

Summary of any actions taken by agency in response to the incident: (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening of Access report | <input type="checkbox"/> Attempted or successful reunification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referral to services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Initial assessment conducted | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safety plan implemented | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with law enforcement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary physical custody of child | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration with medical professionals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Petitioned for court order / CHIPS (child in need of protection or services) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervised visitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement into foster home | <input type="checkbox"/> Case remains open for services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Placement with relatives | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case closed by agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Services case management | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiated efforts to address or enhance community collaboration on CA/N cases |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): |

FOR DSP COMPLETION ONLY:

Summary of policy or practice changes to address issues identified during the review of the incident:

Under the Child Welfare Disclosure Act (Section 48.981(7)(cr), Stats.), the DSP completes a 90-day review of the agency's practice in each case reported under the Act. In accordance with the DCF memo Series 2010-13, dated December 7, 2010 pertaining to the Child Welfare Case Review Protocol, the DSP completed an on-site review in case #130328DSP-Port-307 and prior reports involving the family. The report found: a Child Protective Services (CPS) Report from 2011 was screened out in error. The CPS Report associated with the incident was appropriately documented and screened in for an Initial Assessment and in compliance with Wisconsin Statutes and Standards. The Initial Assessment was not completed and approved within the required timeframes per Statute and Standards. The Initial Assessment contained insufficient information in multiple required areas. Household members and collateral sources were not assessed or utilized for information gathering as required by Statute and Standards.

Recommendations for further changes in policies, practices, rules or statutes needed to address identified issues:

None at this time.

- Yes No Not Applicable This 6-Month Final summary report completes the Division of Safety and Permanence (DSP) review of this case.

If the case review was not completed within 90 days, the DSP will complete and submit the final summary report within 6 months.